S. Marshak

Babies of the Zoo

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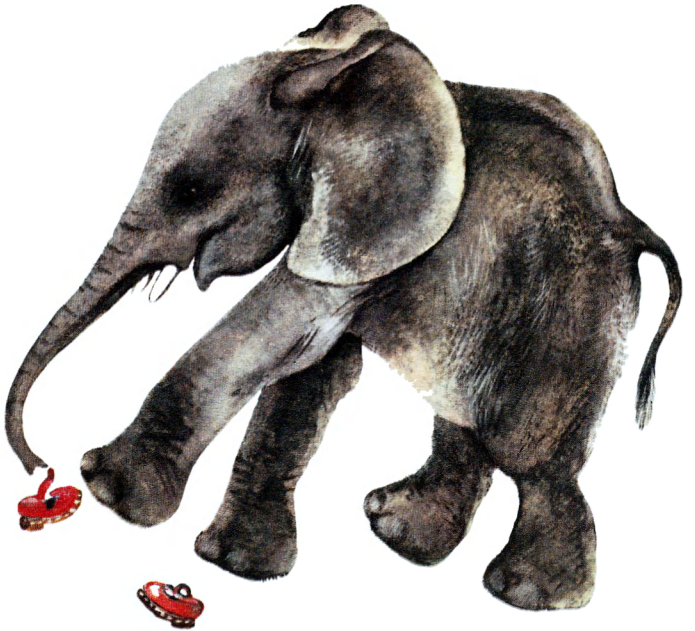


THE ELEPHANT

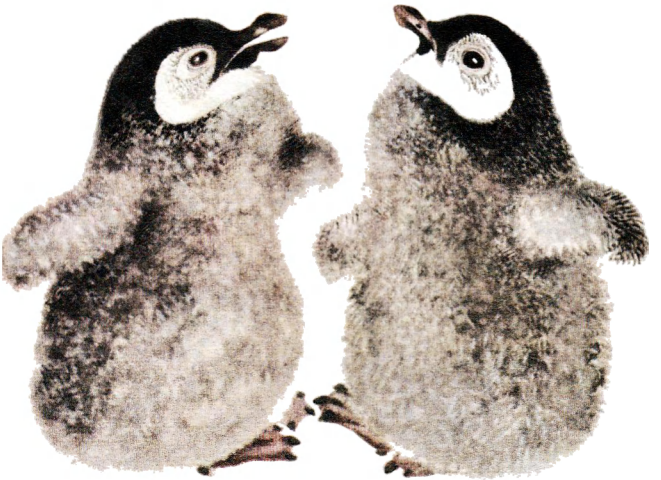
These two slippers I was told
To put on when it got cold.
They are nice but much too small,
And I've four feet, after all!

THE GIRAFFE

For a child who's small and short
Picking flowers is just sport.
With a neck as long as ours
It takes hours, simply hours!

THE BABY TIGER

I'm a Tiger, not a cat.
I am dangerous to pat.



THE PENGUIN CHICKS

Myself and my twin brother
Were only hatched today.
Where can we find our mother?
Is she a bird, you'd say?

Not knowing what your name is
Is really rather thick.
Here someone comes to claim us,
It seems we're Penguin chicks!

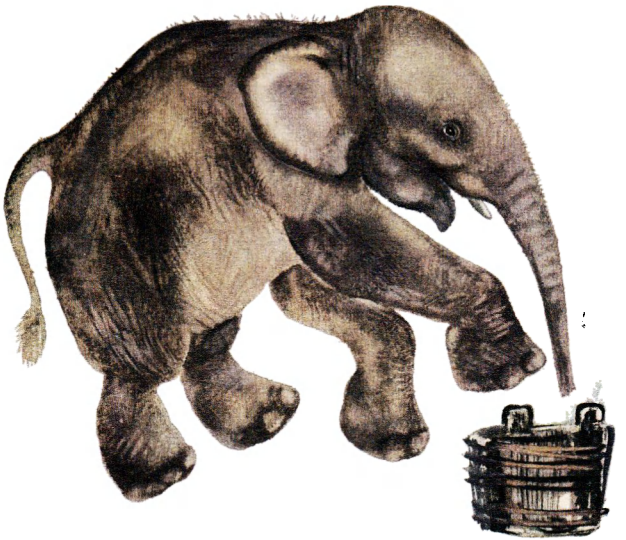
MAGO THE MONKEY

I'm new at the Zoo, and my name is Mago.
I came here from Africa some weeks ago:
A sailor boy brought me from over the sea,
Tucked in a box that he made for me.

I'm homesick at times, but happy enough,
Eating bananas and this lovely stuff:
Called Cod Liver Oil, a spoonful a day,
Supposed to keep the doctor away.

THE ZEBRAS

All the Zebras are, of course,
Second cousins of the horse.
They are striped from head to toe,
In the grass they do not show,
So they run about and play
Hide-and-seek the livelong day.



THE BABY ELEPHANT

This tiny little tot
Feels very, very hot,
There's nothing like a spray
To drive the heat away.
This tub is not much fun
For tots who weigh a ton.

THE LION CUBS

Everyone knows our Daddy, don't you?
Our Daddy's the Lion at the Zoo.
He's got heavy paws and a great mane of hair,
And his roar gives people a terrible scare!

A Lion like that must have plenty to eat.
So Daddy is given the best kind of meat.
But we are just cubs, and our only food
Is sweetened milk, which is awfully good!

THE HUNGRY YOUNG CAMEL

Starving me from meal to meal,
Don't I get a rotten deal?
With an appetite like mine
What's two pailfuls at a time?

THE POLAR BEARS

How nice to dive and swim and play
In such a lovely pool!
They change the water every day,
And keep it nice and cool.
From wall to wall we love to race,
We're really hard to beat!
"Keep to the right, there's lots of space,
Don't shove me with your feet! "

THE YOUNG OSTRICH

I am an Ostrich, five weeks old,
I'm awfully proud and strong and bold,
I stamp my foot at any foe
And scratch the earth with my big toe.

When scared, I stretch my neck and race,
And lead them all a merry chasel
But though I try, and try, and try,
I cannot sing and cannot fly.

THE KANGAROO

Aren't they having fun, these two,
Playing leapfrog in the Zoo!
If you were a Kangaroo
You could join them too.

THE ESKIMO DOG

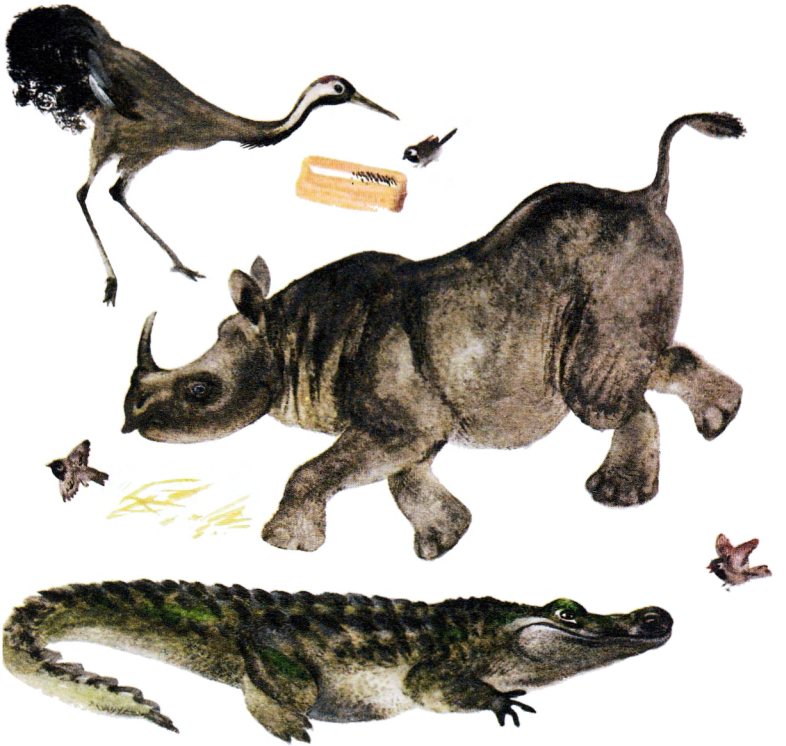
Do not believe the sign that's there.
It isn't fair to say "Beware",
All those who know me say I am
As meek and gentle as a lamb.
I always think it's very queer
To cage me, like the rest, in here.

THE PENGUIN

Don't I look just like a sack,
One part white, the other black?
In the old days you should see me
Race and beat the fastest steamers!
Now I've grown so very fond
Of this quiet little pond.

THE OWLETS

These owlets, good brothers,
Grabbed hold of a seat.
They don't mix with others,
They sleep or they eat.



THE SPARROW IN THE ZOO

Tell us, Sparrow, do you feed
At the Zoo?— I do, indeed.

Yesterday at breakfast-time
I hopped in to see the Lion.

After that I had a snack
With the Fox, and then went back

To the Walrus for a drink,
He was very nice, I think.

Then old Jumbo and the Crane
Treated me to greens and grain.

Nor the Rhino did I miss,
And I had some bran of his.

With the Croc I meant to sup,
But he almost ate me up!

Drawings by E. Charushin

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С. Маршак

ДЕТКИ В КЛЕТКЕ

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